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Preparatory Committee for the Special Session of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the Outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and Further Initiatives
First session
17–28 May 1999
Agenda items 3 and 4

Preliminary review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development

Consideration of further actions and initiatives to implement the commitments made at the Summit

Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Preparatory Committee on the basis of informal consultations

Role of the United Nations system

The Preparatory Committee,

Recalling its decision 4, on the role of the United Nations system, taken at its organizational session in May 1998,

1. *Invites* all relevant organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other concerned organizations to elaborate and submit proposals for further action and initiatives, as set out below;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as part of his overall preparations for the special session, to make available those proposals to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session in April 2000;

Commitment 1
An enabling environment for social development

1. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the Director-General of the International Labour Organization [and the Bretton Woods institutions-European Union (EU)] to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the conclusions of current research to assess the impact of globalization on social [policy/development-Canada] and to make recommendations for further action;

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2. *Also requests* the Secretary General, in conjunction with the funds and agencies of the United Nation system, to prepare proposals [in consultation with national Governments-Sudan] on sound principles and good practices for social policy for the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

Note: EU would replace the entire paragraph with following: Requests the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the International Labour Organization and other relevant organizations, to prepare proposals on sound principles for social policy for the Preparatory Committee at its second session, and to keep the Bureau of the Preparatory Committee informed about progress thereon.

3. *Further requests* the Secretary-General, to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on the development of [guidelines/principles-European Union] on the social responsibilities [of the private sector-United States of America to delete]; the International Labour Organization, [as well as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development-European Union] in consultation with its tripartite constituents, is invited to contribute to the preparation of that report;

Note: The Group of 77 suggests combining paragraphs 1 to 3 under one chapeau, as follows, and adding a new subparagraph:

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in conjunction with relevant specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system, taking into account the reports of national Governments, to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second substantive session on the following:

(a) Assessment of the impact of globalization on the social policy of developing countries, based on conclusions of current research, and recommendations for further action;

[(b) Preparation of proposals on sound principles and good practices for social policy;]

Note: the Group of 77 requests that this text be kept in brackets pending further consideration.

(c) Development of guidelines on the role and social responsibilities of the private sector;

(d) Undertaking of social impact assessments of economic measures implemented by developing countries in the aftermath of financial crises, utilizing as a reference point comparisons between the financial crisis in Asia and similar crises that have been experienced previously or subsequently by some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean; these studies should take into account previous work that has been done in this area and would make greater use of comparative country studies, both inter- and intraregional.

4. *Invites* the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development to carry out a joint assessment of the sectors and products where action could be taken [by developed countries-United States to delete] to further open [their-United States to delete] markets to the exports of developing countries [and countries with economies in transition-Russian Federation et al.];

Note: EU and Japan expressed reservations on this subparagraph; the Group of 77 said it would propose new language.

5. *Invites* the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development and the World Bank to [jointly-Group of 77 to delete] study the feasibility of establishing an infrastructure fund to assist with the development of infrastructure for social development in developing countries [and countries with economies in transition-Russian Federation et al.];

Note: Japan expressed a reservation on this subparagraph; EU would delete it.

EU proposed a new paragraph:

6. *Invites* the Economic Commission for Europe to elaborate measures to support the transition toward a market economy and pluralist democracy in countries with economies in transition;

7. [*Invites* the International Law Commission to consider the development of/*Invites* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to give priority consideration to the possibility of developing-Canada] an international legal instrument for combating corruption, and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on this proposal;

Note: EU would replace the entire paragraph with the following text: *Encourages* the ongoing work on a draft convention against transnational organized crime and the additional protocols thereto, with a view to the speedy finalization of that work.

8. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to review [obstacles and-EU] progress achieved since the Summit in the ratification and implementation of existing international conventions and covenants to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms[and to propose further steps for action-EU][and to urge States that have not yet done so, to do so-Sudan];

Note: EU suggests that the report should also be submitted to the Commission for Social Development.

Commitment 2
Poverty eradication

9. *Recommends* that the General Assembly at its special session adopt a global poverty reduction target to reduce by one half the number of people living in extreme poverty by the year 2015; and invites the President of the World Bank and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme, when preparing their upcoming major reports on poverty reduction (the World Development Report 2000 and the second report on overcoming human poverty, respectively), to recommend additional strategies, policies and programmes for poverty eradication to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake further efforts to evaluate the achievement of international targets aiming to meet the basic human needs of all and to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

11. *Invites* the International Labour Office, in cooperation with the relevant offices of the United Nations system and the International Social Security Association, to prepare a report for the second session of the Preparatory Committee containing recommendations for further action in the field of social protection to be taken at the special session; interested Governments are invited to provide support;

Commitment 3
Full employment

12. *Invites* the International Labour Office to prepare a programme of national and regional action plans for achieving full employment in an integrating world economy and to submit it to the Preparatory Committee at its second session; the report could propose

a strategy and plan of implementation which could include analytical and research components, policy implications and recommendations for action, and country-level operational activities;

13. *Invites* the United Nations in cooperation with the International Labour Office to prepare proposals to strengthen procedures and institutions for social dialogue; this should include specific proposals for strengthening representative employer and worker organizations;

14. *Invites* the World Bank and the International Labour Office to submit to the Preparatory Committee at its second session a brief report indicating the scope for increasing the employment potential of infrastructure development and the employment impact of World Bank infrastructure loans, as well as a strategy for expanding international cooperation in that field;

Commitment 4
Promoting social integration

15. *Requests* Governments to strengthen mechanisms for participation, cooperation and dialogue among all levels of government and other social actors as a contribution to integration, and invites the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development to undertake a review of existing national institutional arrangements for social integration and report on the lessons learned to the Preparatory Committee at its second session; interested Governments are urged to support this project;

16. *Invites* the Commission on Human Rights to consider the development of an international legal instrument for the protection of the family;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on suggested means to strengthen the capacity of organizations working for conflict resolution and conflict prevention;

Commitment 6
Universal and equitable access to high-quality education and health services

18. *Invites* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Bank to formulate a global action plan for education for all by the year 2015, and to submit a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

19. *Invites* the World Health Organization, in consultation with the World Bank and other interested organizations of the United Nations system, to elaborate a Global action plan for basic health services by the year 2015, and to submit a progress report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session;

Commitment 7
Acceleration of development in Africa and in the least developed countries

20. *Invites* the United Nations Secretariat, in conjunction with the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development, to review again the proposal to establish a commodities diversification facility and to make a recommendation to the Preparatory Committee at its second session, in view of the importance of reducing dependence on one or a few commodities;

21. *Encourages* the twenty-five African countries most affected by the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome to adopt a target of reducing infection levels in young people by 25 per cent by 2005, and invites the World Health Organization, in conjunction with the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome to prepare and propose means for implementing a strategy for achieving that target;

Commitment 8
Inclusion of social development goals in structural adjustment programmes

22. Affirming that national Governments must control the setting of policy directions and priorities of anti-crisis policy measures and programmes, with the participation of representatives from the civil society, the local business community and other national stakeholders, and that programmes should not be adopted without social impact assessment, to ensure provision of adequate social protection for the poor and vulnerable groups and to mitigate any potential adverse effects of its implementation, *requests* the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session on this matter;

Commitment 9
Resources for social development

23. *Requests* the United Nations Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to undertake further study and to report to the Economic and Social Council on ways and means to address the issues relating to the international dimensions of national tax policy and international tax competition;

Commitment 10
International cooperation for social development

24. *Supports* the efforts of the United Nations to develop a coherent set of basic social development indicators by the time of the second session of the Preparatory Committee and for the further development of methodologies for social impact assessments, and encourages the establishment or strengthening of national monitoring and evaluation units;

25. *Invites* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a report to the Preparatory Committee at its second session containing operational proposals on enhancing social development for all through the provision of global public goods;

26. *Urges* all concerned to promote South-South cooperation, particularly in terms of economic and technical cooperation, support a triangular mechanism whereby donor countries would provide financial support for South-South cooperation and consider the establishment of a generalized trust fund for triangular economic technical cooperation among developing countries.